

Cont
A6

with a ratio S_1/S_2 of 3.0 or higher. Except at the bonding regions, the continuous fibers 6 are neither fused nor bonded together but substantially brought into close contact with one another. In other words, the aggregative strength among these fibers 6 are extremely feeble so that the continuous fibers 6 are easily separated from one another as the composite sheet 10 is slightly stretched in Y-direction.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 12 with the following:

The composite sheet according to this invention comprises a plurality of inelastically stretchable continuous fibers that are evenly stretched as these continuous fibers are stretched in one direction since they are oriented substantially in the one direction. Consequently, a possible unevenness in the fiber diameter after stretched and therefore in touch as well as in appearance can be minimized.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-6 as follows:

1. (Amended) A composite sheet comprising:

an elastically stretchable layer having upper and lower surfaces; and

an inelastically stretchable fibrous layer formed with [stically] inelastically stretchable continuous fibers,

the elastically stretchable layer and the inelastically stretchable layer [these two layers] being bonded together intermittently in first and second directions orthogonal to each other, [at least, in said first direction, said composite sheet being characterized by that:]

said inelastically stretchable continuous fibers of said inelastically stretchable fibrous layer being [are] oriented substantially in said one direction so that a tensile strength S_1 of said composite sheet in said first direction and a tensile strength S_2 of said composite sheet in said

second direction [may] define a ratio S_1/S_2 of 3.0 or higher.

2. (Amended) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said composite sheet has a stretch efficiency in said first direction that is in a range of about 60 [%] to 90 %.

3. (Amended) A process for making [said] a composite sheet which comprises:
providing [by bonding] an elastically stretchable layer having upper and lower surfaces;
providing [and] an inelastically stretchable fibrous layer formed [by] with inelastically stretchable continuous fibers that lie upon one another without being bonded together;
orienting said inelastically stretchable continuous fibers in a first direction;
positioning said inelastically stretchable fibrous layer [put] on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the elastically stretchable layer; and
intermittently bonding said elastically stretchable layer and said inelastically stretchable fibrous layer to each other [intermittently] in said first direction and a second [directions] direction orthogonal to said first direction. [each other, at least, in said first direction, said process being characterized by that.

said continuous fibers lie one upon another substantially without being bonded together to form said inelastically stretchable web and that the web is, in turn, bonded to said elastically stretchable web after said continuous fibers have been oriented substantially in said one direction.]

4. (Amended) [The] A process [according to Claim 3,] for making a composite sheet [said process] comprising steps of:

extruding [said] inelastically stretchable continuous fibers from a melt [extruder,]
extruder;

collecting said inelastically stretchable continuous fibers on a conveyor running in one direction to form [said] an inelastically stretchable [web,] web;

orienting said inelastically stretchable continuous fibers substantially in said one direction;

providing an elastically stretchable web;

[and at the same time] placing said inelastically stretchable continuous fibers upon said elastically stretchable web; and

[finally] bonding [these two webs] said inelastically stretchable web and said elastically stretchable web together intermittently in said one direction to obtain said composite sheet.

5. (Amended) The process according to Claim 3, wherein said step of orienting said inelastically stretchable continuous fibers substantially in said [one] first direction comprises [including said] conveying said inelastically stretchable continuous fibers on a first conveyor running at a velocity V_1 and on a second conveyor provided [at] downstream of said first [conveyor and] conveyor, said second conveyor running at a velocity V_2 so that a ratio V_2/V_1 [may lie in] is within a range of about 1.05 [~] to 10.

6. (Amended) The process according to Claim 3, wherein said inelastically stretchable continuous fibers are oriented in said [one] first direction so that a tensile strength S_1 of said composite sheet in said [one] first direction and a tensile strength S_2 of said composite sheet in the second direction [orthogonal to said one direction may establish] has a ratio S_1/S_2 of 3.0 or higher.

Please add new claims 7 and 8 as follows: